

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 01851 220959Z
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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7101
INFO AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

CONFIDENTIAL TEHRAN 1851

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: INT, IR
SUBJ: MFA ANNOUNCES FOUR NEW DIRECTORS GENERAL

1. A NUMBER OF LONG-EXPECTED SHIFTS WITHIN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED DURING THE PAST WEEK. ALL OF THE NEW APPOINTEES ARE CAREER DIPLOMATS.

2. SOLTAN HOSSEIN SANANDAJI, 59, HAS BEEN NAMED DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS (ASIA, AFRICA AND THE PACIFIC). ANBASSADOR SANANDAJI HELD THIS POSITION BEFORE IN THE PERIOD 1971-74, PRIOR TO BEING NAMED AMBASSADOR TO POLAND. HE HAS MOST RECENTLY SERVED AS AMBASSADOR TO TUNISIA (1976-77). SANANDAJI, A MAN OF STRONG VIEWS AND (REPORTEDLY) MAN PREJUDICES (ANTI-UK, ANTI-ARAB, ANTI-INDIAN) HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF A NUMBER OF EARLIER BIOGRAPHIC REPORTS (TEHRAN A012, JAN. 22, 1974; TEHRAN A138, JULY 22, 1976.) LISTING IN IRAN'S WHO'S WHO CAN BE FOUND UNDER NAME VAKILI-SANANDAJI. IN LIGHT AMBASSADR SANANDAJI'S SENSITIVE MFA POST WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY TUNIS' VIEWS ON HIS PERFORMANCE IN TUNISIA.

3. MANUCHEHR SEPAHBODI, 55, NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEHRAN 01851 220959Z

AFFAIRS, HAS A DEGREE IN POLITICAL SCIENCE FROM TEHRAN UNIVERSITY. HE JOINED THE GOVERNEMENT IN 1945 WORKING FIRST IN THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADES AND ARTS AND LATER IN THE MINISTRY OF NATIONAL ECONOMICS. AFTER JOINING MFA IN THE EARLY 1950S HE SERVED IN PROTOCOL, ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND WAS HEAD OF THE DEPT OF PERSIAN GULF AFFAIRS. ABROAD HE HAS SERVED IN COLOGNE, BASRA, KARACHI AND HAS RECENTLY RETURNED FROM SIX

YEARS AS IRANIAN AMBASSADOR TO BAHRAIN. HE SPEAKS ENGLISH.
(SEE 76 MANAMA 1972 FOR ASSESSMENT OF SEPAHBODI'S TENURE.)

4. IRAJ PEZECHKZAD (PREFERRED SPELLING), 50, A WELL KNOWN AUTHOR AS WELL AS DIPLOMAT, HAS BEEN APPOINTED DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RELATIONS. HE HAS A DEGREE IN LAW AND POLITICAL SCIENCE FROM DIJON UNIVERSITY, FRANCE. JOINING THE GOI IN 1953, HE SERVED AS JUDGE IN THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE FOR FIVE YEARS. SINCE JOINING THE MFA IN 1957 HE HAS BEEN POSTED IN VIENNA (1960); PRAGUE (1936); GENEVA (1966); AND WAS CHARGE IN ALGERIA (1973). AT HOME HE HAS SERVED IN THE DEPT OF INFORMATION AND PRESS, THE DEPT OF STUDIES AND RESEARCH, AND WAS FOR FOUR YEARS HEAD OF THE WESTERN EUROPEAN DEPARTMENT. HE SPEAKS FRENCH AND HAS PUBLISHED SEVERAL ARTICLES, NOVELS, AND PLAYS. PEZECHKZAD WROTE THE SCRIPT OF "DEAR UNCLE NAPOLEON," ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR FARSI TELEVISION SERIALS TO BE SHOWN BY NIRTIV, AND PRESENTLY BEING RERUN NATIONALLY.

5. MOHSEN GOODARZI, 54, HAS BEEN PROMOTED TO THE POST OF DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR THE MINISTER'S SECRETARIAT AND CONCURRENTLY CHEF DE CABINET WITH THE PERSONAL RANK OF AMBASSADOR. UNTIL HIS APPOINTMENT HE WAS HEAD OF THE AMERICAS DEPT AND WAS ONE OF THE EMBASSY'S MOST EFFECTIVE CONTACTS AT MFA. (FULL BIOGRAPHIC MATERIAL SUBMITTED PREVIOUSLY TO INR.) REPLACING GOODARZI IN THE FOURTH POLITICAL DEPT IS HIS COUSIN, SAEED GOUDARZNIA, ALSO A CAREER DIPLOMAT. GOUDARZNIA, 53, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TEHRAN 01851 220959Z

HAS SERVED TWO TOURS IN THE U.S.: 1964-68 AT THE IRAIAN UN MISSION IN NEW YORK AND 1968-72 AS DEPUTY PRINCIPAL OFFICER IN SAN FRANCISCO. FOLLOWING HIS CALIFORNIA ASSIGNMENT COUDARZNIA WAS CHIEF OF THE CONSULAR SECTION IN LONDON FOR THREE YEARS AND HAS SPENT THE PAST TWO YEARS AS CONSUL IN BAKU, USSR. (ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND PROVIDED INR IN EMBASSY TEHRAN MEMO OF FEB 8, 1978).

MIKLOS

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